

SENATE BILL 1851

By Campfield

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71,
Chapter 3, Part 1, relative certain assistance
payments to parents or caretakers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as "The Parental Involvement to End Poverty Act".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-3-104, is amended by adding the following language as new, appropriately designated subsections:

(m) On or after July 1, 2014, any parent or caretaker that applies for and receives temporary assistance shall:

(1) Receive a temporary assistance grant in an amount determined by subsection (r); and

(2) Provide documentary evidence, in person, to the department that the parent or caretaker has successfully completed one (1) of the following:

(A) Attended two (2) or more parent-teacher conferences and met with as many of the child's teachers as are in attendance at the child's parent-teacher conferences in the past year, or attended two (2) parent-teacher conferences since the child failed a course;

(B) Attended at least eight (8) hours of parenting classes since the time that the parent or caretaker received the first temporary assistance payment to which the reduction applied;

(C) Enrolled the child in and the child has attended an available and affordable tutoring program for each grade level or subject area that

prevented the child from advancing to the next grade or from graduating.

The child's completion of the tutoring program must be certified by the entity or individual providing the tutoring using criteria and documentation approved by the department;

(D) Enrolled the child in summer school in order that the child may obtain a passing grade in the failed subject or subjects that prevented the child from advancing to the next grade or from graduating;
or

(E) Presented a copy of the child's report card indicating the child is successfully passing a course or grade.

(n) Upon completion of the requirements in subdivision (m)(2), the parent or caretaker shall receive an increase in subsequent temporary assistance payments in an amount determined by subsection (s).

(o) The department shall define by rule what documentary evidence shall be accepted for purposes of restoring a reduction in temporary assistance payment payments.

(p) All documentation relevant to establishing academic progress or restoring benefits shall be provided upon re-certification of the parent or caretaker relative's temporary assistance case.

(q) Failure to comply with subsection (m), without good cause, shall result in the parent or caretaker relative receiving a child only grant until such time as compliance occurs.

(r) The following shall apply to determine the temporary assistance grant:

Number of Persons in AU	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Gross Income	1288	1658	1972	2240	2470	2666	2838	2991	3128	3256

Standard										
Consolidated Need Standard	696	896	1066	1211	1335	1441	1534	1617	1691	1760
Standard Payment Amount	95	142	185	226	264	305	345	386	425	467
<i>Differential Grant Payment Amount</i>	112	153.6	185.6	193.6	232.8	244	276	308.8	340	373.6

Number of Persons in AU	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Gross Income Standard	3374	3487	3596	3702	3802	3898	3987	4064	4129	4175
Consolidated Need Standard	1824	1885	1944	2001	2055	2107	2155	2197	2232	2257
Standard Payment Amount	508	549	589	630	670	711	750	790	831	871
<i>Differential Grant Payment Amount</i>	406.4	439.2	471.2	504	536	568.8	600	632	664.8	696.8

(s) The following shall apply to increases in temporary assistance payments:

Number of Persons in	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Differential Grant Payment Amount	140	192	232	242	291	305	345	386	425	467

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(t) As used in subsections (s) and (r), “assistance unit” or “AU” means:

(1) A child under eighteen (18) years of age;

(2) A child under nineteen (19) year of age who is expected to complete high school or an equivalent vocational or technical training before the child’s nineteenth birthday;

(3) A pregnant woman in her last trimester; or

(4) The otherwise eligible parent or caretaker of a supplemental security income program (SSI) child.

SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 4. The commissioner is authorized to promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules shall be promulgated in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014, the public welfare requiring it.